

Landscaped Freeways - Questions and Answers

Question #1: How can I determine what post mile a specific location is at?

Answer: Post miles start at 0.0 at county lines and increase as you travel north or east. As you drive the freeway, post miles are identified on white paddles or on bridge abutments. Or, email me at dale.williams@dot.ca.gov or phone me at (916) 654-6025 and I can look them up.

Question #2: Why is Caltrans in the business of controlling billboards on "Landscaped Freeways"?

Answer: It's required by the California Outdoor Advertising Act. The Act can be seen on the Internet at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/oda/download/ODA_Act_&_Regulations.pdf

Question #3: How do I read the Classified "Landscaped Freeways" list on the Internet?

Answer: Find the appropriate District first. Then find the county and route. Both sides of the freeway between the post mile limits are classified. The letter R means the freeway was "realigned", not the right side of the freeway. The dates in the preliminary determination column mean the section is currently classified but the planting project is recent or ongoing and the section still needs to be field-inspected.

Question #4: How do I request a section of "Landscaped Freeway" freeway be declassified?

Answer: First, make sure there is no planting on either side of the freeway in the area of your request. Then send a letter requesting declassification to Keith Robinson, Principal Landscape Architect, Caltrans, Mail Stop #28, 1120 N Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814. Provide enough information so that we can determine where the location is and state why you think it should be declassified. We will inspect the location within 60 days and respond to you.

Question #5: How many times do you declassify a section of "Landscaped Freeway"?

Answer: From January 2002 to December 2007, we have received 41 requests and declassified 22 of those, for a rate of slightly over 50%. Typical reasons are that the planting has died or the freeway has been widened and the planting removed.

Question #6: Why are there other outdoor advertising displays in sections of "Landscaped Freeway"?

Answer: The displays were likely "grandfathered-in" if they were installed prior to the planting project. They could be on-premise displays, which are not controlled by Caltrans.

Question #7: Is a "Landscaped Freeway" the same as a Scenic Highway?

Answer: No. A Landscaped Freeway is a section of freeway that has been landscaped within the State right-of-way and is generally in urban areas. A

Scenic Highway contains natural scenic beauty, requires local agencies to protect the scenic corridor and is generally found in rural areas.

Note: These questions and answers are for information purposes only and are not intended to have legal implications.